

Private -

To -  
Wm Lloyd Garrison

Newtown - 2 Mo 22<sup>nd</sup> 1853

Dear friend,

25- Thou wilt look at my name, perhaps, on the receipt of this communication, and it will fail to bring to thy remembrance, any one with whom thou hast any acquaintance - for we have never met, face to face - nevertheless with thee, or with thy name, I have long been familiar; and with many others, have united in ascribing unto thee, much honor & renown for what we have known and heard, of thy indefatigable efforts in the cause of the poor & oppressed colored race; whom we acknowledge to be our brethren & sisters; and equally, with us, the objects of our Heavenly Father's love and regard; I am endeavoring to be a faithful and obedient child of this great & good Almighty Father, and to follow Him in the way of his leadings; tho' this should bring me to lay down my life for his cause. This is all I can offer by way of explanation, why I now address thee! because I feel that it has been laid upon me, and remains a burden on my spirit, until I shall, under the cross to my natural will, comply with what I believe to be a Divine requisition; Hoping thou wilt receive it, in the love and simplicity with which it is given - for most assuredly I have not been permitted "to behold the mote in my brother's eye, without considering the beam in my own eye" - May we both come to that Light which is given to every one to profit withal, which can alone show us our true state & condition - No one, I am persuaded ever,



was favored to feel himself in the awful presence of an all wise, and all powerful, just & gracious God, who is truly the 'Searcher of Hearts', without being brought into humiliation & a state of true self-abasement! for the nearer we draw to Divine Power & goodness, the more humble & insignificant we feel ourselves! If thou had'st been thus favored in Cherry St. Meetg., during the "season of silence", it could not have been felt or described by thee, as appeared in thy letter, published in the Free-man of Dec. 16th. I trust it was not to all as to thee, a "formal observance", of "great stupidity"! but rather a time of inward retirement & silent waiting before the Lord - wherein we do know our spiritual strength renewed. When I read thy letter referred to, how was I grieved, & my feelings wounded; because, that which I esteemed sacred holy & precious, was set up a mark for scoffers & unbelievers to ridicule - even the solemn act of silent spiritual communion with the "Father of Spirits"! & that thou should'st give to the world, a ludicrous acct. of a solemn assembly, who met professedly to serve & worship the most High God!! that all were not sincere humble worshippers there, thy letter I am sorry to say, gives room to doubt! - yet it does not exclude the hope, that to many, it was a time of refreshment in the presence of the Lord! We cannot, when favored with <sup>His</sup> presence, be pleased with the praise & adulation of our fellow-creatures; we cannot see that we have ever



done any good or great works; but the song of thanks-  
giving, will swell our hearts, as we ascribe all Honor  
praise & power unto our God - If in sincerity of heart, we  
are seeking to show forth His praise, & His Glory, and  
asking His divine blessing and guidance on all our  
endeavors "to promote peace on earth and good will to men"  
then indeed shall we <sup>be</sup> enabled also, to give "Glory to  
God in the highest"! That this may be our happy  
experience my dear Brother, is the fervent desire of  
my heart - and tho' but a feeble woman, ~~I~~ yet am  
I constrained by the love of my Heavenly Father to write  
thus unto thee - whether it be for my own benefit only,  
or for thine, <sup>I may never know!</sup> ~~yet~~ I believe, I have not written in vain!  
May we be more attentive to the "Gift of God" in the secret of  
our souls - for most assuredly it is the Lamb of God, that  
taketh away the sins of the world - not only Slavery, cru-  
elty & oppression, but all sin! When the ax shall be laid  
at the root of the corrupt tree, then shall we be free in  
that liberty which the Truth can only give:

Before closing this letter (which perhaps is already too long)  
I want just to add, that notwithstanding more than two months have  
elapsed since I first read thy Communication in the Freeman, it was very  
unexpectedly brought to mind, <sup>at this time</sup> with an intimation to write to thee -  
not a reply thereto - for I have neither head nor heart for Controversy:  
but simply to query, whether such Sarcasm on serious subjects, can  
effect any good? will it not tend rather to scatter from the Truth,  
instead of gathering thereto? And to judge the "Season of Silence" wherein  
we seek to worship the Father "in Spirit & in truth" to be now, with  
us,



us, only a "formal observance, and usually one of great stupidity", is to acknowledge thyself ignorant of the way, <sup>of worship</sup> which our blessed Master recommended his to the woman of Samaria. "God is a spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth." Of our peculiarities of dress &c. I have nothing to say - Thou canst laugh at them, without hurting the life of Christ. neither will thy derision do any harm to the "Portly woman in the high seats." I know not who she was; but can fully understand, that before she could rise from her seat in that house, under "concernment of mind" she was willing to appear as a fool to the natural man, (to whom the wisdom of God is foolishness) and to the worldly wise also. Lucretia Mott I do know; and have known and loved her, from my childhood. That she and Esther Moore may be preserved in true christian Humility, is my earnest desire; not for them only, but for us all - for herein is safety & peace, where we shall love the praise of God, more than the praise of men -

Affectionately thy friend  
Mary K. Janney